IN REPLY
REFER TO   AQOF

`MAY 1 4 1997`

MEMORANDUM FOR COMMANDERS, DEFENSE CONTRACT MANAGEMENT
DISTRICTS

SUBJECT: Review of Draft MIL-HDBK-61, "Configuration Management Guidance"

      MIL-STD-973, Configuration Management, consolidated the Configuration
Management (CM) requirements that were previously scattered in multiple standards.
With the advent of acquisition reform, the Defense Standards Improvement Council
(DSIC) decided to replace MIL-STD-973 with a non-government CM standard
(Electronic Industries Association Interim Standard (EIA-IS)-649) and an interface
standard (MIL-STD-2549) containing DoD's CM information requirements only.

      The non-government standard, EIA-IS-649, Configuration Management, was
published in 1995 and recently adopted by DoD. DSIC approved MIL-STD-2549,
Configuration Management Data Interface for publication on May 7, 1997. DSIC also
decided to keep MIL-STD-973 active while programs convert to the EIA-IS-649 and
MIL-STD-2549 environment.

      MIL-HDBK-61 (Draft) provides the bridge between MIL-STD-973 and EIA-IS-
649/MIL-STD-2549. It also provides guidance to military acquisition program managers
and other individuals assigned responsibility for CM and will assist in planning for and
implementing DoD configuration management activities and practices during all life
cycle phases of defense systems and configuration items. It supports acquisition based on
performance specs, and the use of industry standards and methods to the greatest extent
possible.

      The MIL-HDBK-61 (Draft) is available at http://www.magicnet.net/~noble/eia/, for
electronic distribution. We ask that your staff review it and provide comments to
Mr. Aristides Maldonado (AQOF) by June 15, 1997. Essential comments must be
justified or they will be treated as suggested. Recommended wording for all changes is
required. Mr. Maldonado can be contacted at (703) 767-3355.

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Executive Director
Contract Management Policy

cc: AQOG
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